

Why join Scouting?

Ask the boys and they will tell you it's a lot of fun and they're right. However, while they are having fun a lot of learning and growing occurs. Cub Scouts is a family (not just boy) program designed to develop character, good citizenship, good sportsmanship, life skills and strong families. Cub Scouts helps boys learn to be helpful, to respect other people and to strive to do one's best.

Objectives of Cub Scouting

- Influencing the development of the boy's character and spiritual life.
- Developing habits and attitudes of good citizenship.
- Encouraging good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body.
- Improving understanding within the family.
- Strengthening the ability to get along with other boys and respect other people.
- Fostering a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills.
- Showing how to be helpful and to do one's best.
- Providing fun and exciting new things to do.
- Preparing Cub Scouts to become Boy Scouts.

Cub Scouting is for Families

As you can see these are not tasks to be left to just any adult. Most of these tasks are best accomplished by a boy's parents. Thus, Cub Scouts is not a program for boys. It is a program for families with boys. Parents need to be involved. We know that the family is an important influence on the youth of our nation. Cub Scouting provides opportunities for families to work and play together, to have fun together, and to get to know each other a little better.

Cub Scouting is for All Boys

Cub Scouting is for all boys, and each boy is different. We realize there are no "average" boys and that's why Cub Scouting is easily adaptable to a boy with a physical, mental, or emotional limitation. When a youngster with a disability participates, there is little doubt that Cub Scouting can be one of the most valuable aids to his physical and mental development. And the boy is a great teacher for the other boys.

Cub Scouting is Fun

Boys join Cub Scouting because they want to have fun. However, for boys, "fun" is sort of a code word for satisfaction from meeting challenges, having friends, feeling safe, and feeling they are important to other people. But Cub Scouting can provide even more. While boys are having fun, doing things they like to do, they are also learning new things, discovering and mastering new skills, gaining self-confidence, and developing strong friendships. In the often confusing and troubling world in which today's children live, Cub Scouting is even more important as a haven - a place where a boy can find acceptance and support from friends when he needs it.

Cub Scouting has Ideals

The Cub Scout Promise, which is a pledge of good citizenship; the Law of the Pack, a simple formula for good Cub Scouting; and the motto, "Do Your Best," are but a few. Such symbols as the Cub Scout sign, salute, secret code, and living circle all add a sense of mystery and exclusiveness which most boys enjoy and add to the appeal of belonging to a well-known and accepted organization.

Cub Scouting Provides Adventure

Cub Scouting helps fulfill a boy's desire for adventure and allows him to use his vivid imagination while taking part in skits, games, field trips, service projects, outdoor activities, and others. There is adventure in exploring the outdoors, learning about nature, and gaining a greater appreciation for our beautiful world. Watching our boys come alive enjoying the freedom that camping in a safe environment like Cub World provides is truly proof that we are doing the right thing.

Cub Scouting Helps Develop Interests and Skills

Cub Scouts learn many useful things; they develop abilities and dexterity, learn to use tools and to follow directions. Badges encourage them to qualify in subjects such as conservation, safety, physical fitness, community awareness, sports, religious activities, and others. These interests may become a hobby or even a career later in life.

Cub Scouting has an Advancement Plan

The advancement plan encourages the natural interests of a boy in a natural way. It provides fun for the boys, teaches them to do their best, and helps strengthen family understanding as families work with boys on advancement requirements. Badges are awarded to recognize advancement. Boys like to receive and wear the badges, but the real benefit comes from the worthwhile things they learn while they are earning the badges.

Cub Scouts Belong

Belonging is important to boys. They like to be accepted as part of a group. In Cub Scouting, boys belong to a small group called a den where they take part in interesting and meaningful activities with worthwhile friends. In the den they learn sportsmanship, good citizenship, and loyalty; they learn how to get along with others, and how to do their best for themselves and their den. Cub Scouts also belong to a pack made up of several dens.

Cub Scouting Teaches Boys to “Reach Out”

Cub Scouting provides opportunities for boys to “reach out” into a wider community while still keeping a link with more secure foundations such as the home, religious organization, and school. It helps boys to become full members of their communities as they take part in service projects and other community-related activities. They get to know their community better and recognize the importance of good citizenship.

Cub Scouting Teaches Duty to God and Country

The Boy Scouts of America believes that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God, and encourages both youth and adult leaders to be faithful in their religious duties. The Scouting movement has long been known for service to others. We believe that patriotism plays a significant role in preparing our nation’s youth to become useful and participating citizens. A Cub Scout learns his duty to God, country, others, and self.

In Summary

Scouting, as a worldwide brotherhood, is unique and different. It is based on the principles of loving and serving God, human dignity and the rights of individuals, and recognizing the obligation of all members to develop and use their potential. It is a movement dedicated to bringing out the best in people; one of the few left in the world where the emphasis is not on winning as an end result, but on the far more demanding task of “doing one’s best.” All of the activities have an effect on the growth and development of boys, and we must remember that our ultimate objectives are citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness.

Educators tell us that an increasing number of young people find they cannot make friends and feel lonely, even in a crowd. They have had thousands of words spoken at them by television, and they have never learned to play, to laugh, to develop their imaginations, and to express their feelings. If we can help nurture courage and kindness, allow boys to play, to laugh, to develop imaginations, and to express their feelings, then we will have helped them grow. We want them to become useful and stable individuals who are aware of their own worth. Helping a boy to learn the value of his own worth is the greatest gift we can give him. Cub Scouting helps us to do just that.